

What's In The Name?

I. Introduction.

- A. We are continuing in our focal point about prayer. Bret has been sharing about Jesus' prayer out of John 17. We will continue in there today, looking back over some verses that Bret had covered but with a different topic.
- B. Let's look at our main text: **John 17: 9-12, 20 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled... ²⁰ My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,**
- C. **Pray.**

II. What is the Significance of Jesus' Name? Start in the Old Testament.

- A. Lots of times we end our prayer with "in Jesus' name." **Why do we do that? What does it mean? Is it a seal of God's approval? What are we invoking?**
- B. Let's begin by looking in the Old Testament. We've had a series in the past where we looked at different names of God. But let's look at God's name in a general sense and how it applies to Jesus.
- C. In **Genesis 4** we read about the two sons of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. We read about Cain killing Abel; Cain goes away, then they have another son Seth. In verse 26 we read Seth has a son and calls him Enosh. It says at that time, **people began to call on the name of the LORD.**
- D. Then we move along to the call of Moses at the burning bush - **Exodus 3:13-15 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has sent me to you.'" This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation."**
- E. A few verses later, in **verse 18**, Moses is told to go to the king of

- Egypt, Pharaoh, and tell him that The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. God has identified a people for himself, a people to be known by his name. They are the people from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Hebrews, the people of Israel.
- F. Later in Exodus, we read about the significance of God's name in the commandments. The third commandment is: **Exodus 20:7** **You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.**
- G. We read even further how important God's name was to Israel in **2 Chronicles 6:5-11** **'Since the day I brought my people out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built so that my Name might be there, nor have I chosen anyone to be ruler over my people Israel. ⁶ But now I have chosen Jerusalem for my Name to be there, and I have chosen David to rule my people Israel.'** ⁷ **"My father David had it in his heart to build a temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ⁸ But the LORD said to my father David, 'You did well to have it in your heart to build a temple for my Name. ⁹ Nevertheless, you are not the one to build the temple, but your son, your own flesh and blood--he is the one who will build the temple for my Name.'** ¹⁰ **"The LORD has kept the promise he made. I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹¹ There I have placed the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with the people of Israel."**
- (1). **Where is God's name?** It is tied to a people he chose for himself. He chose Jerusalem and the temple as to be synonymous with his name.
- H. God himself states this in the next chapter as he talks to Solomon. **2 Chronicles 7:14-16** **if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. ¹⁶ I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.**
- I. But if Israel does not honor God - **verses 19-20** **"But if you turn away and forsake the decrees and commands I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, ²⁰ then I will uproot Israel from my land, which I have given them, and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. I will make it a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.**
- J. What happened? Israel profaned God's name by idolatry, sacrificing to other gods and God removed his name from the

temple and Jerusalem. Both of them were destroyed.

III. Jesus' Name - New Testament.

- A. Jesus' name is the foundation of our faith. **Romans 10:12-13** For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,¹³ for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
- B. We see this on the day of Pentecost when Peter speaks to those in Jerusalem. **Acts 2:36-38** "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Peter further uses the name of Jesus in a couple of chapters later in **Acts 3:2-6** Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."
- D. Peter explains this miracle to the elders, the teachers of the law and the High Priest in Jerusalem the next day, found in **Acts 4:7-12** They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed,¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.¹¹ Jesus is "'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.'¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we

must be saved."

(1). We see both healing and the message of salvation is found in the name of Jesus.

E. **Hebrews 1:3-4** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

F. This is the full extent of Jesus' name - **Philippians 2:9-11** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Questions: What is the importance of Jesus' name to us? Are we named as his people? Do we carry his covenant like in the Old Testament? What is the power of his name for salvation? What is the power of his name in our praying?